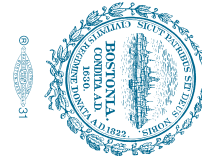


THE MISSION of the Boston Initiative for Lead Safe Housing (BILSH) is to prevent families from experiencing discrimination because of lead paint. Often landlords and realtors in the City of Boston do not rent to families because of lead. It is the collaborative mission of the Boston Fair Housing Commission, Boston Public Health Commission, Department of Neighborhood



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Boston Fair Housing Commission
One City Hall Plaza/Room 966
Boston, MA 02201

Boston Initiative
for
Lead Safe
Housing

Creating
**Lead
SAFE**
communities



CITY OF BOSTON
Thomas M. Menino
Mayor

Boston Fair Housing Commission
Victoria L. Williams
Director



What is Fair Housing?

Fair Housing is equal access to housing opportunities for all people. In Massachusetts, it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of familial status, race, national origin, color, religion, disability, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, source of income, age, and military status.

Is it legal to deny housing because the housing has lead paint?

It is illegal for housing providers to discriminate against families with children under six or children with elevated blood levels (EBL), even if the unit is known to have lead paint.

What other activities are banned by the Fair Housing Act?

- Refusal to negotiate for sale or rental
- Denial of real estate services
- Denial of access to housing
- Discrimination in advertising
- Discrimination in rental terms or conditions
- Redlining of neighborhoods
- Block busting
- Interference with the exercise of the individual's civil rights

THE BOSTON FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION investigates and enforces Fair Housing Laws. We investigate complaints made by people who believe they have been legally denied housing opportunities in Boston because of discrimination. We can also answer your fair housing questions and refer you to other services that may be helpful. Families, individuals and property owners should call 617.635.4408 or 617.635.2541 TTY for further information, or visit www.cityofboston.gov/bfhc

Where can I go to make my house part of Boston's Lead Safe Community?

THE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT'S (DND) Lead Safe Boston Program provides financial and technical assistance to eligible 1 – 4 family property owners within the City of Boston.

These services include:

- Lead inspection services
- Grants and 0% deferred loans
- Construction management assistance

Call DND at 617.635.0190 for more information, or visit www.cityofboston.gov/DND

THE BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION (BPHC) offers a menu of services that deals with the child safety issues of lead.

These services include:

- Free lead inspections
- Free environmental assessments for families with asthmatic children
- Blood lead testing
- Medical follow-up and coordination of services
- Temporary housing for families
- Family counseling
- Free moderate risk deleading courses for owners and their agents

Call BPHC at 617.534.5966 for more information, or visit www.bphc.org

The Massachusetts Lead Law

The lead law requires that any place built prior to 1978 where a child under six years old lives, must be made lead safe. This means that owners are responsible for bringing the property

into "compliance" by covering lead hazards or having the lead hazards removed by a licensed professional. The law says explicitly that it is the responsibility of the owner to make the home safe for the family. The first step is always to have a lead inspection done. Free lead inspections are available from the Boston Public Health Commission.

For further information regarding the Massachusetts Lead Law contact:

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, 800.532.9571 or 617.284.8400

How can I locate Lead Safe Housing or list a Lead Safe Unit?

METROLIST is the popular name for the Metropolitan Housing Opportunity Clearing Center. METROLIST is a walk-in housing information service, which includes subsidized housing listings, private apartments, and housing service referrals. For assistance locating lead safe apartments or to list your lead free units through METROLIST call 617.635.3321

Lead Safe Job Training Opportunities

The Environmental Safety Training program at BOSTON CONNECTS, INC. provides Boston residents with training, licensing and certification in lead abatement, construction site safety and other environmental skills. Empowerment Zone residents receive priority consideration. For further information about this program, and other training opportunities, please call 617.541.2675, or visit the Boston Connects website at www.BostonEZ.org